

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A valve (~~10~~) for closing a container (~~500~~) and for enabling the container (~~500~~) to be filled, said valve (~~10~~) comprising a housing (~~20~~) with an inlet port (~~30~~) and an outlet port (~~40~~) wherein said inlet port (~~30~~) is adapted for ~~direct or indirect~~ connection to a fluid source (~~700~~) said connection being selected from the group of indirect and direct connections, and wherein said outlet port (~~40~~) is adapted for ~~direct or indirect~~ connection to said container (~~500~~) said connection being selected from the group of indirect and direct connections; a closing member (~~60; 260; 360; 460~~); and at least one valve member (~~70; 270; 370; 470~~) which in a first position allows fluid communication between said inlet port (~~30~~) and said outlet port (~~40~~) and which, in a second position, prevents fluid communication from said inlet port (~~30~~) to said outlet port (~~40~~), wherein said valve member (~~70; 270; 370; 470~~) ~~is separate from the closing member (60; 260; 360; 460) and~~ is brought into and maintained in said first position only if a static pressure difference (ΔP_3) across said valve member (~~70; 270; 370; 470~~) is below a pre-determinable first threshold.
2. (Currently Amended) A valve according to claim 1, wherein said valve member (~~70; 270; 370; 470~~) has force-generating means (~~80; 280; 380''; 80'; 480' ; 80'~~) adapted for providing a balancing force (F_x) to said valve member (~~70; 270; 370; 470~~) and for bringing said valve member (~~70; 270; 370; 470~~) into said first position when said filling condition is fulfilled.
3. (Currently Amended) A valve according to claim 2, wherein said force-generating means have a spring (~~280~~).
4. (Currently Amended) A valve according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 2~~ claim 1, wherein the valve member (~~370; 470~~) has an internal part (~~380''; 480''~~) comprised in said valve which can be operatively connected with an external part (~~80; 380'; 480'~~) ~~not comprised in~~ external to said valve (~~10~~) for bringing and maintaining said valve member (~~370; 470~~) into said first

position.

5. (Currently Amended) A valve according to claim 4, wherein said internal part (~~380''~~; ~~480''~~) has a first magnet (381) or a magnetisable element (481) providing a balancing force (~~Fx~~) for bringing said valve member (~~370~~; ~~470~~) into said first position when said valve is brought into proximity with an external part (~~380'~~; ~~480'~~) having a second magnet (~~382~~; ~~482~~).

6. (Currently Amended) A valve according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein said closing member (~~60~~; ~~260~~; ~~360~~; ~~460~~) is formed as a check valve.

7. (Currently Amended) A valve according to claim 6, wherein said check valve (~~260~~) and said valve member (~~270~~) are formed on a body (~~260~~) movable in a chamber (~~50~~) of said housing (~~20~~) between said inlet port (~~30~~) and said outlet port (~~40~~).

8. (Currently Amended) A valve according to ~~one of the claims 6 or 7~~ claim 6, wherein said check valve (~~260~~) comprises a pin (~~290~~) attached to an end of said check valve (~~260~~) directed towards said inlet port (~~30~~).

9. (Currently Amended) A valve according to ~~one of the claims 7 to 8~~ claim 7, wherein said housing has a chamber divided in to an upstream chamber (~~251~~) and a downstream chamber (~~352~~) in communication with one another, wherein said upstream chamber (~~351~~) is adapted for reciprocatingly accommodating said closing member (~~60~~) , and wherein said downstream chamber (~~352~~) is adapted for reciprocatingly accommodating said valve member (~~370~~) at least between said first and second position.

10. (Currently Amended) A valve according to ~~one of the claims 5 and 9~~ claim 5, wherein said downstream chamber (~~352~~) is adapted for aligning movement of said valve member (~~370~~) in the direction of magnetic attraction or repulsion between ~~an~~ said internal part (~~380''~~; ~~480''~~) and ~~an~~ said external part (~~380'~~; ~~480'~~).

11. (Currently Amended) A system for filling a container (500) with a fluid exclusively from an authorised fluid source (700), comprising a pressure regulating means (720) in fluid communication to said fluid source (700) and adapted for connection with a valve (10) on said container (500), said valve (10) comprising

- a housing (20) with an inlet port (30) and an outlet port (40) wherein said inlet port (30) is adapted for direct or indirect connection to a fluid source (700) and wherein said outlet port (40) is adapted for direct or indirect connection to said container (500);
- a closing member (60, 260, 360, 460);
- and at least one valve member (70, 270, 370, 470) which in a first position allows fluid communication between said inlet port (30) and said outlet port (40) and which, in a second position, prevents fluid communication from said inlet port (30) to said outlet port (40),
- wherein said valve member is brought into and maintained in said first position only if a static pressure difference (ΔP) across said valve member (70, 270, 370, 470) is below a pre-determinable first threshold;

wherein said pressure regulating means (720) is designed to maintain the pressure of the fluid supplied to said container (500) below a pre-determined or pre-determinable first threshold selected in such a way that said valve member (70, 270, 370, 470) of said valve (10) is brought into and maintained in said first position.

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 11, wherein said system has fluid flow rate sensing means (730) for measuring the flow of liquid into said container (500), said system further comprising control means (710) operatively connected to said pressure regulating means (720) and said fluid flow rate sensor means (730).

13. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 11 or 12, wherein said pressure regulating means (720) is adapted for providing a delivery pressure of a pre-determined minimum magnitude and for increasing the delivery pressure in a manner controllable via said control means (710).

14. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~one of the claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11, wherein during operation of the system relating to the filling of a container (500) from a fluid

source (699) connected to that system, said control means initially commands the pressure regulation means to provide a delivery pressure of a magnitude below a first predetermined threshold value and then to increase the delivery pressure, maintaining the fluid flow rate within a pre-determined range.

15. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~one of the claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11, wherein the system further comprises an external part (~~380''~~, ~~480''~~) of said force-generating means which can be brought in operative connection with an internal part (~~380''~~, ~~480''~~) of a force-generating means ~~in a valve according to one of the claims 4 to 10~~ said valve for bringing and maintaining said valve member into said first position.

16. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~one of the claims 11 to 15~~ claim 11, wherein the system comprises means for weighing (770) said container (~~500~~), said means for weighing being coupled to said control means (~~710~~).

17. (Currently Amended) A refillable container for storing fluids, wherein said container is provided with a valve, said valve (~~10~~) comprising

- a housing (~~20~~) with an inlet port (~~40~~) and an outlet port (~~40~~) wherein said inlet port (~~30~~) is adapted for direct or indirect connection to a fluid source (~~700~~) and wherein said outlet port (~~40~~) is adapted for direct or indirect connection to said container (~~500~~);
- a closing member (~~60~~, ~~260~~, ~~360~~, ~~460~~);
- and at least one valve member (~~70~~, ~~270~~, ~~370~~, ~~470~~) which in a first position allows fluid communication between said inlet port (~~30~~) and said outlet port (~~40~~) and which, in a second position, prevents fluid communication from said inlet port (~~30~~) to said outlet port (~~40~~), wherein said valve member is brought into and maintained in said first position only if a static pressure difference (~~ΔP_3~~) across said valve member (~~70~~, ~~270~~, ~~370~~, ~~470~~) is below a pre-determinable first threshold.

18. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 17, wherein the valve is permanently connected to an opening of said container (~~500~~).

19. (Currently Amended) A method for filling a container (500) having a valve (10) with a fluid from a fluid source (600), said valve (10) comprising

- a housing (20) with an inlet port (30) and an outlet port (40) wherein said inlet port (30) is adapted for direct or indirect connection to a fluid source (700) and wherein said outlet port (40) is adapted for direct or indirect connection to said container (500);
- a closing member (60; 260; 360; 460);
- and at least one valve member (70; 270; 370; 470) which in a first position allows fluid communication between said inlet port (30) and said outlet port (40) and which, in a second position, prevents fluid communication from said inlet port (30) to said outlet port (40), wherein said valve member is brought into and maintained in said first position only if a static pressure difference (ΔP_3) across said valve member (70; 270; 370; 470) is below a pre-determinable first threshold;

the method comprising the steps of:

- a) connecting the valve (10) to said fluid source (600)
- b) controlling the delivery pressure (P_1) of said fluid at an said inlet port (30) of said valve (10) such as to maintain the static pressure difference (ΔP_3) across a valve member (70; 270; 370; 470) of said valve below a predetermined or predeterminable first threshold.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein step b) comprises the sub-steps of

- b1) initially providing a static delivery pressure to said inlet port (30) of said valve (10) that is less than a predetermined second threshold during a predetermined or predeterminable period of time
- b2) after step b1, increasing said delivery pressure continuously or in a plurality of steps.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims 19 or 20~~ claim 19, wherein step b comprises the sub-steps of

- b3) initially providing a delivery static pressure to said inlet port which is less than a second threshold value
- b4) measuring the fluid flow rate of fluid flowing into said valve (10)
- b5) if said fluid flow rate is decreasing, then increasing the magnitude of said delivery static

pressure (~~P1~~) in a predetermined or predeterminable manner

b6) continuing steps b4 and b5 until the measured fluid rate is zero.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims 19 to 21~~ claim 19,

wherein step b) comprises the further sub steps of

b7) measuring the static pressure at said inlet port (~~30~~)

b8) if said static pressure in said step is within a pre-determined third threshold value of the magnitude of the pressure of the container when full, discontinuing filling of container and disconnecting the valve from said fluid source

b9) if said static pressure in step b7) is less than a pre-determined third threshold value of the magnitude of the pressure of the container when full, discontinuing filling of container, releasing pressure in the valve upstream of the outlet port (~~40~~), resuming filling of container and continuing with steps b7) to b8).

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims 19 to 22~~ claim 19,

wherein before and/or during the filling procedure, the weight of the container (~~500~~) is continuously measured.